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**BRONX DENTIST SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR SUBMITTING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS FOR PERIODONTAL TREATMENT**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that LAWRENCE WHITE, a dentist in the Bronx, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court yesterday to two years' imprisonment for submitting false claims for reimbursement to several private insurance companies for a dental procedure known as periodontal scaling and root planing ("PSRPs"). WHITE pled guilty in this case on July 16, 2004, to one count of health care fraud and one count of false statements relating to health care matters.

According to the Indictment and an earlier criminal Complaint against WHITE, between July 1997 and October 2003, WHITE submitted numerous false claims for reimbursement to several private insurance companies for PSRPs. According to the charges, PSRP is a treatment for individuals who suffer from periodontal disease, a condition marked by inflammation of the gums, detachment of the gums from the tooth and bone loss. In a PSRP procedure, which is typically performed on only one quadrant, or quarter, of

the mouth at a time, a dentist uses dental instruments to remove plaque and calculus, according to the charges. Also according to the charges, due to the difficulty of the procedure and the pain associated with it, dentists typically perform PSRP on no more than two quadrants of the mouth in a single patient visit.

According to the charges, WHITE submitted numerous phony claims for PSRP procedures, many of which were for PSRPs performed on all four quadrants of a patient's mouth in a single visit to WHITE's office. The Complaint against WHITE alleged that the FBI had conducted interviews of more than 20 of WHITE's patients for whom WHITE claimed payment for PSRP procedures and that those patients stated that they never had the procedure performed in any of their visits to WHITE's office.

In sentencing WHITE, United States District Judge JOHN G. KOELTL emphasized that WHITE abused his position as a dentist to submit false claims for reimbursement and obtain money that he was not entitled to. In addition to imposing the two-year sentence on WHITE, Judge KOELTL ordered him to pay \$212,056 in restitution to the various insurance companies he defrauded. Among those insurance companies were Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, Aetna, Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield and GE Group Life.

WHITE, 50, resides in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the FBI in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN ABERNETHY is in charge of the prosecution.

